HISTORY OF THE CARBONDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

In order to present a history of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, it is necessary to give the history of the two organizations (The Carbondale Historical Society and The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc.) that merged, on November 6, 1982, and formed the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum.

The Carbondale Historical Society was established in October, 1974, in response to a recommendation by Dr. Paul Gilette that local history be preserved. Accordingly, six Carbondale school techers (Mrs. Marie Hornbeck, Mrs. Ann Russo, Ms. Gloria Wilson, Mr. Joseph Pascoe, Mr. Martin Roe and Mr. Paul Kaczmarcik) took it upon themselves to start the organization. The first public meeting was held in January, 1975, with monthly meetings held thereafter. Shortly after the Bicentennial, the Carbondale Historical Society became inactive, and meetings were no longer held. Two of the important accomplishments of the Carbondale Historical Society during the period in the 1970s when it was active are: (1) placement of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad Shops in Carbondale on the National Register of Historic Places, and (2) the production and presentation of a broad range of historical programs and events during the Bicentennial.

The Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc. was formed in November of 1981 by S. Robert Powell and David J. Baum. Three of the major accomplishments of the Committee in the one year that it existed are: (1) the repair of the tower clock of Carbondale City Hall at a cost of $3,000, which was raised in donations from Carbondale citizens; (2) the production and presentation of the First Annual Carbondale City Hall Lecture and Film Series in Carbondale City Hall during Carbondale Pioneer Days 1982, August 23-27, 1982; and (3) the restoration, installation and rededication of a Carbondale Historical Marker in a plot of land next to Carbondale City Hall.

On November 6, 1981, the Carbondale Historical Society and the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, Inc. merged and formed the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum, the membership of which are divided into seven committees, namely: Budget and Finance, House and Reception, Membership, Program, Building and Maintenance, Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, and Public Relations. All of the former members of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, and many of the former members of the Carbondale Historical Society are presently active members of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum. The former president of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, S. Robert Powell, is presently the president of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum. The former vice president of the Committee to Restore Carbondale City Hall, David J. Baum, is presently the second vice president of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum.

Four important accomplishments of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum in the four months that it has been in existence are: (1) restored an unused room on the third floor of Carbondale City Hall for use as the Society's headquarters and as an exhibition gallery; (2) sponsored and conducted a Carbondale town meeting on the subject of the new Carbondale Post Office and the fate of the present post office building in Carbondale; (3) sponsored and presented a public lecture, delivered by the Society's president, on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company's Gravity Railroad from Carbondale to Honesdale; (4) sponsored An Exhibition of Photographs from The Metro's 2nd Annual Photo Contest in the Society's exhibition gallery in Carbondale City Hall.

There are at present seventy-five active members of the Carbondale Historical Society and Museum. Meetings of the Society are held biweekly, on Thursday evening at 7:30 P.M., in the Society's headquarters in Carbondale City Hall.